



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATED TO CORRECT LOCATION OF MINE AND CORONER'S NAME

Martin County Mine Accident Claims the Life of an Underground Miner

FRANKFORT, Ky. – (March 25, 2011) – Investigators from the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) are on the scene of an underground mine accident which killed one miner. The accident happened around 8 a.m. EDT at the Czar mine operated by Matrix Energy LLC, located near Bear Water Branch on the Martin – Johnson County line. The miner, 54-year-old Robert L. Cook of Inez in Martin County, was pronounced dead at the scene by Martin County coroner Joe Mullins.

Preliminary reports indicate the miner was pinned by the boom of a continuous miner. OMSL investigators will interview witnesses to determine the cause of the accident. This is the first mine fatality in Kentucky in 2011.

“This is sad and tragic, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family of this miner,” said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. “We must continue our efforts as regulators and companies to ensure a safe working environment for the thousands of men and women who work above and below ground each day to provide this energy resource to the Commonwealth.”

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